



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Congressman Heath Shuler Announces Grant for Buncombe County Fire Department

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Heath Shuler today announced that the Buncombe County Firefighters Association has received a federal grant for \$455,245.00 to purchase a Mobile Burn House.

The Mobile Burn House (MBH) is a semi-trailer with moveable partition walls that can be moved to create hallways and different rooms. The MBH will burn propane gas and will be able to be moved from station to station for training exercises. This will allow departments to conduct their training with their own equipment and without taking their firefighters out of their fire district.

“This trailer will be a greatly improve our firefighting and search and rescue practices,” said West Buncombe Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Randy Ratcliff. “Also, often times while in a structure during a fire the primary route to safety for a firefighter will become blocked by debris and collapsing walls. This MBH will allow us to provide better training on finding alternate routes to safety for firefighters in these situations.”

The MBH will also allow for greater training coordination between local fire departments, sheriff's departments, and emergency medical services. Various training situations can be set up at the MBH to which all first responders would respond to increase coordination.

“We are all thankful for the brave men and women of who risk their lives protecting our families, homes, and communities,” said Representative Heath Shuler. “This mobile burn house will keep our firefighters safer by allowing them to be better trained and better equipped to handle the dangerous situations they face on a daily basis.”

The grant for the MBH was issued through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Fire Act Grant program.

Assistant Chief Ratcliff can be reached at the West Buncombe Fire Department, 828-254-7387 Ext. 11.

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